

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please insert the following as the first paragraph following the title of application text:

This application is the National Stage of Application No. PCT/EP2004/014037, filed on December 9, 2004, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/528,430, filed December 10, 2003. The contents of both are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please insert the following as the abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

Methods for making an algorithm for the prediction of the RNAi potency of a RNAi reagent are provided. Also provided are methods for predicting the RNAi potency of a RNAi reagent and methods for inhibiting the expression of a given target gene using such an algorithm.